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VIA: Air Pouch

DISPATCH NO.

SPECIFY AIR OR SEA ROUTE

CLASSIFICATION

TO

DATE: 23 January 1953

FROM

SUBJECT: GENERAL: Pro-Cominform Communist Party in Trieste
SPECIFIC: CIC Reports on Pro-Cominform Communist Party Activity

1. Attached hereto are the following CIC reports:
 - a. No. S-500-1743, 3 January 1953, General Port Strike;
 - b. No. S-501-1738, 6 January 1953, PCTLT Activities.
2. The [redacted] has not retained copies of these reports.

Att: As stated.

cc: [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

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HEADQUARTERS
17th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment
TRIESTE UNITED STATES TROOPS
AMO 209 U S ARMY

8 January 1953
Report No. E-500-1743

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

SUBJECT: General Port Strike

1. The following information was received from a Confidential Source of this office on 8 January 1953. Evaluation of Source is B.

2. On 8 January 1953 a general port strike for 24 hours, was called by the Port workers at the Port of Trieste. The strike is in protest of the new Port legislation passed by AMO. The dock workers claim that they should have had representation to AMO prior to the passing of the legislation (reference CIC report S-500-1737, dated 5 Jan 53). At 0900 hours a group of port workers gathered in an orderly crowd around the offices of the Trieste Labor Office on Piazza Oberdan. A delegation of men representing the various unions, headed by MUSLIN Giuseppe, met with Engr. Ernesto DE PETRIS, head of the Trieste Labor Office, to air their grievances. The delegation stated to Engr. DE PETRIS that there was a general Port strike for 24 hours for the reason stated above. They demanded a meeting with AMO representatives in order to settle certain questions with regard to pay, pensions, etc. After the meeting with Engr. DE PETRIS, at 1050, the crowd broke up in an orderly fashion.

[Signature]
FRANCESCO DERZIS
1st Col Arty
Commanding

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23 Jan 53

HEADQUARTERS
17th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment
TRIESTE UNITED STATES TROOPS
APO 209 U S ARMY

6 January 1953
Report No. C-501-1738

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

SUBJECT: PCFLT Activities

1. On 3 January 1953, the PCFLT newspaper Il Lavoratore published a special edition entitled, "Let Us Save The ROSENBERGS". A translation of the article is as follows:

In two death cells in the prison of Sing-Sing, which are separated from the execution chamber by a mere wall, a young American couple wait anxiously each morning for the sunrise. Do they die today or tomorrow? Ethel and Giulio ROSENBERG were condemned to the electric chair on 5 April 1951. Motives: Delivering the secret of the atom bomb in 1945 to the USSR. On 25 February 1952, the Appeal Court of the UNITED STATES approved the sentence but attempted to circumscribe the responsibility. The court stated that without the testimony presented by the GREENGLASS couple during the trial "judgement could not have been proven".

The Supreme Court later denied the right of appeal to the ROSENBERGS.

If the President of the UNITED STATES does not intercede, the two children of the ROSENBERGS (four and eight years old) in a few days will become orphans.

ONE HUNDRED WITNESSES.....ABSENT

The trial of the ROSENBERGS, arrested in June 1950, opened on 6 March 1951 before the Federal Tribunal of the South District of New York. The prosecutor had summoned 118 witnesses, among whom were Dr. SOFFENWEINER, Dr. SERI, (General) Leslie GROVES, the scientists and military people who had directed the work for the construction of the first American atom bomb, as were the agents of the FBI (political police) who concerned themselves in the question.

Only 23 witnesses appeared at the Tribunal, but none of those mentioned above. Of the 23 present, only five knew the ROSENBERGS and two, David GREENGLASS and his wife, gave direct testimony. The Court of Appeal realized that the entire question depended upon the sole testimony of the GREENGLASSES.

23 Jan 53

AN ABLE MECHANIC

David GREENGLASS, mobilized, worked as a mechanic in one of the installations at Los Alamos from August 1944 to February 1946. In September 1945, GREENGLASS went on leave to New York and met his brother-in-law, according to GREENGLASS's testimony, at a dinner table and designed by memory, with no other aid, a section of the atomic bomb and compiled twelve written pages to explain its function. The design and written material was given to Giulio ROSENBERG who allegedly passed it to the SOVIET UNION. This is the way it was, according to the prosecution, that in a mere conversation the SOVIET UNION came into possession of "the secret most closely guarded in history" (that is the manner in which it is defined by the American Scientific Magazine).

GREENGLASS confirmed at the trial that he never possessed any document, that circulation in the various Los Alamos laboratories was difficult, that conversation by telephone and correspondence was censored, that personnel wore identification of different colors and the identification worn by GREENGLASS did not give him any right to information which was foreign to his trade as mechanic.

How can GREENGLASS have had possession of all the information which he claims to have had. "By habit", he stated, contradicting himself, "I had access to various departments of the establishment and was in good standing with many persons in different departments. In conversation with these persons, we discussed details of which I know nothing of but I listened avidly and asked questions so that I could get an idea of what was going on. I did it in such a way that it was not noticed."

THE EVIDENCE

The following evidence was brought out at the trial: A box used for the collection of funds for children of the Spanish Republic, found in the apartment of the ROSENBERGS; a 1941 petition in favor of a Communist candidate (elected) for the New York City Council with 50,000 signatures.

The entire trial was of this nature. For the Attorney General the "guilt" of the defendants was established in advance. The Attorney General asked of Giulio ROSENBERG, "Your wife, upon your request, copied, by typing, the twelve page document which you had received?"

Answer: "She did nothing of the sort."

Question: "Is your wife a typist?"

Answer: "Yes, she is a typist."

Question: "Do you have a typewriter at home?"

Answer: "Yes, we have one."

23 Jan

The Attorney General: "Thus, that is good, let us proceed..." This "let us proceed" has been the death sentence of a mother of two children.

How did the court obtain the GREENGLASS testimony? The GREENGLASSES were implicated in another affair but the police threatened them with a more serious sentence using the terrible charge of "atomic espionage" and promising GREENGLASS a lesser sentence if he collaborated.

The results disclose that the GREENGLASSES were well paid even though he and his wife confessed all that the police desired to know, he was sentenced to prison (15 years) and his wife was set free.

POLITICAL PLAY OF THE GOVERNMENT

What is the interest of the Government in dealing so with the GREENGLASSES? They, as second class spies had no propaganda value. They had no ties with the progressive movement of the UNITED STATES. His sister was married to an engineer, Giulio ROSENBERG, who had manifested progressive opinions and especially, as he brought out at the trial, sympathy for the SOVIET UNION, which, in the last war, had contributed more than all others to the destruction of the Third Reich, responsible for the death of six million coreligionists.

The UNITED STATES Government accused the ROSENBERGS of charges which could have been used against the GREENGLASSES.

This in brief, is the story of the ROSENBERGS, a tragic story which will be concluded with the premeditated murder of two innocents, if President TRUMAN does not pardon them, and will make orphans of two small children.

United, let us ask for pardon for the ROSENBERGS. Let us multiply our efforts to tear them from the electric chair.

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for Apteda
PETER H. DEFEIS
Lt Col - Arty
Commanding

23 Jan. 53